

**REMARKS**

Claims 1-4 and 6-22 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 1 and 10 are amended and claims 11-22 are added.

The courtesies extended to Applicant's representative by Examiner Cuevas and Primary Examiner Tamai at the interview held May 22, 2003, are appreciated. The reasons presented at the interview as warranting favorable action are incorporated into the remarks below and constitute Applicant's record of the interview.

Claims 1-4, 6 and 7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph. Specifically, the claims are rejected for recitation of an equation in claim 1 which is alleged to be missing mathematical operators thereby rendering the claim indefinite. However, as the cited language has been deleted from claim 1 in an Amendment filed on July 30, 2002 and considered and entered upon grant of the Request for Continued Examination, Applicants assert that the rejection is moot. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request the rejection of claims 1-4, 6 and 7 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, be withdrawn.

Claims 1-4, 6 and 8-10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 4,739,204 to Kitamura et al. (Kitamura) in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,965,965 to Umeda et al. (the '965 patent) and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,137,201 to Umeda et al. (the '201 patent). The rejection is respectfully traversed.

Applicants assert that none of the applied references, whether considered alone or in combination, disclose or suggest each and every feature recited in the rejected claims. For example, the combination of references does not disclose or suggest a liquid-cooled vehicle rotary electric machine operable in a motor mode or a generator mode, comprising . . . a stator winding having a plurality of conductor segments extending in a circumference around the turn portions of the U-shaped segments to be welded together to form a neutral point.

Additionally, Applicants submit that the '965 patent does not disclose or suggest a liquid passage disposed near the joint coil ends as alleged in the Office Action. Rather, the '965 patent discloses effective axial cooling of an alternator by air flow. The alternator supplies cooling air along an inner circumference of coil end groups in an axial direction (col. 1, lines 30-60 of the '965 patent).

Regarding claim 3, the Office Action alleges that Kitamura discloses a liquid-cooled vehicle rotary electric machine wherein the stator core and the stator winding are liquid-tightly enclosed by the frame 26, 30 as shown in Fig. 2 of Kitamura and stated in col. 2, line 61. Kitamura discloses a front bracket 26 that supports the stator core 10 and is formed on an inner surface thereof with an annular groove 26a in which a flange 24a of one end of the enclosure 24 fits liquid-tightly, with an aid of gasket 27 of a material such as a viscous silicone compound, to form a pair of annular coolant passages 32a extending peripherally thereof between the enclosure 24 and the inner wall of the bracket 26. However, Kitamura does not disclose the features recited in claim 3. Rather, the stator winding 11 of Kitamura is enclosed by the metal enclosure 24 (see Fig. 2 of Kitamura). An insulating filler 25 such as synthetic resin fills the spaces between the enclosure 24 and the opposite ends of the stator coil 11 to provide a liquid-tight connection to the stator core 10 to thereby protect the stator coil from the liquid coolant (col. 2, lines 48-55). Accordingly, the combined references do not disclose or suggest all of the features recited in the rejected claims. Thus, Applicants respectfully request the rejection of claims 1-4, 6 and 8-10 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) be withdrawn.

Claim 7 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable over Kitamura in view of the '965 patent further in view of the '201 patent and further in view of *Electric Machinery and Transformers*, 2nd edition. The rejection is respectfully traversed.

Applicants assert that claim 7 is allowable for its dependency on claim 1 for the reasons discussed above, as well as for the additional features recited therein. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request the rejection of claim 7 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) be withdrawn.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 1-4 and 6-22 are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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